

**To:** Ruhl, Christopher[Ruhl.Christopher@epa.gov]; Guria, Peter[Guria.Peter@epa.gov]; Foster, Althea[Foster.Althea@epa.gov]  
**From:** Ostrander, David  
**Sent:** Thur 8/27/2015 11:05:01 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Utah DEQ Report on San Juan River Sampling Results

Good info

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "McGrath, Shaun" <McGrath.Shaun@epa.gov>  
**Date:** August 27, 2015 at 4:48:58 PM MDT  
**To:** "Dhieux, Joyel" <Dhieux.Joyel@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** "Hestmark, Martin" <Hestmark.Martin@epa.gov>, "Ostrander, David" <Ostrander.David@epa.gov>, "Williams, Laura" <williams.laura@epa.gov>, "Myers, Craig" <Myers.Craig@epa.gov>, "Card, Joan" <Card.Joan@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Utah DEQ Report on San Juan River Sampling Results

Thanks Joyel!

Shaun McGrath

Regional Administrator

EPA, Region 8

1595 Wynkoop St

Denver, CO 80202

Office: 303-312-6532

**From:** Dhieux, Joyel  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 27, 2015 4:18 PM  
**To:** McGrath, Shaun  
**Cc:** Hestmark, Martin; Ostrander, David; Williams, Laura; Myers, Craig; Card, Joan  
**Subject:** Utah DEQ Report on San Juan River Sampling Results

Hi Shaun,

Thanks for stopping by this afternoon. We really appreciate the kind words and support. As promised, I've attached a copy of the Utah DEQ Preliminary Report and a link to their website (<http://www.deq.utah.gov/Topics/Water/goldkingmine/index.htm> ). I've only conducted a cursory review of the Utah DEQ sampling data and report. I hope to have time in the coming days to read the report more thoroughly. It will be interesting to compare the UDEQ sampling data with what we have sampled upstream on the Animas. Based on my quick initial review, a few points stood out:

- The UDEQ found that “total metal concentrations are highly variable and difficult to interpret with respect to this event.” In some cases, the total metal concentrations were greater in samples collected prior to the arrival of the spill plume. The UDEQ attributes this to the high natural variability of total metals in the San Juan River and to monsoon rain events which increase the delivery of total metals to the river.
  
- In the evaluation of the threat to drinking water, recreation, fish and wildlife and agriculture, the DEQ report concludes that “Generally, professionals from all state agencies have concluded that, even at peak concentration, the observable increase in metals from the Gold King Mine release have posed minimal threat to all of these uses.”
  
- The UDEQ used dissolved metal concentrations to track the plume. As we have found on the Animas River, the UDEQ concludes that the dissolved concentrations of metals in the San Juan River have declined to baseline concentrations.

The report was released on August 19, 2015.

Joyel

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Joyel R. Dhieux

Federal On-Scene Coordinator

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